Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of panelists' experience on script concordance test scores of medical students

Version: 1 Date: 06 Aug 2020

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound?
If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: I would like the authors to add a few more points in the discussion, which, though not part of study design, has emerged well from the findings. The first is the confirmation of the dictum that what is asked is more important than how it is asked. The fact that the scores didn't vary with prior experience of the students suggests that some matching of the level (specific versus generalist problems) is required. The second is the re-emergence of subjectivity in assessment. The responses, though marked objectively, are actually based on expert subjective judgment. These points will add value. An interesting study which deals with an emerging assessment tool. Will help to clarify many issues related to SCTs.
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Is the study design appropriate to answer the research question (including the use of appropriate controls), and are the conclusions supported by the evidence presented?

Yes

Are the methods sufficiently described to allow the study to be repeated?

Yes

Is the use of statistics and treatment of uncertainties appropriate?

Yes

Is the presentation of the work clear?

Yes

Are the images in this manuscript (including electrophoretic gels and blots) free from apparent manipulation?

Yes